

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 INT-05 GSA-01 H-02 FTC-01 JUSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 OFA-01 CEQ-01 EPA-01 /106 W

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R 091802Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 504

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, PP

SUBJ: KENNECOTT DEPARTS, BUT DOOR IS STILL AJAR

REF: A. PORT MORESBY 288

B. PORT MORESBY 335

1. KEITH HULLEY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KENNECOTT (AUSTRALIA)

PAID FAREWELL CALL ON ME APRIL 29 TO SAY THAT KENNECOTT'S

PNG OPERATIONS CONNECTED WITH OK TEDI WILL OFFICIALLY END

APRIL 30. HE HAS WRITTEN LETTER TO GPNG INDICATING DOOR

IS STILL OPEN ON KENNECOTT'S SIDE IF GPNG WANTS TO RECON-

SIDER ITS POSITION. HE EXPECTS SIMILAR LETTER FROM SOMARE

STATING THAT PNG DOOR IS STILL OPEN IF KENNECOTT WANTS TO

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RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.

2. HULLEY RATHER EXPECTS THAT AFTER TWO OR THREE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED, AND GPNG HAS NOT FOUND OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES READY TO STEP IN, NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE RESUMED AND POSSIBLY COME TO FRUITION.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, HULLEY SAID, KENNECOTT WILL STILL BE ACTIVE IN OTHER AREAS OF PNG. KENNECOTT HAS 43 PCT INTEREST IN COPPER EXPLORATION PROJECT NEAR GOROKA HEADED BY BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY, HE SAID. IN ADDITION, TRIAKO MINES IS SERVING AS AGENT OF KENNCO EXPLORATIONS (AUSTRALIA) - A KENNECOTT SUBSIDIARY - IN EXPLORATION IN CENTRAL DISTRICT NORTH OF PORT MORESBY.

4. THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BRING KENNECOTT AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO PNG FROM TIME TO TIME, HULLEY POINTED OUT, AND WILL PERMIT HIM TO TAKE SOUNDINGS ON OK TEDI.

5. HULLEY ADMITTED BOUGAINVILLE COPPER MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN OK TEDI, AND COMMENTED THAT BOUGAINVILLE HAS AN ADVANTAGE IN EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH GPNG.

6. JAPANESE WERE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING WITH KENNECOTT IN OK TEDI ABOUT A YEAR AGO, HULLEY SAID, BUT AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS DECIDED THEY DID NOT WANT TO PUT UP THE MONEY.

7 SOUTH KOREANS HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN DEVELOPING A SOURCE OF COPPER SUPPLY IN PNG, HULLEY SAID, BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY DECISIONS HAD BEEN REACHED.

8. COMMENT: HULLEY SEEMED A LITTLE MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF KENNECOTT IN PNG THAN IN DISCUSSION REPORTED REF A. HE ALSO SEEMED MORE PHILOSOPHIC ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES WITH GPNG. POSSIBLY ANTONIA'S CALL AT KENNECOTT HEAD OFFICE IN NEW YORK (REF B) BROUGHT ABOUT SOME CHANGE IN KENNECOTT'S ATTITUDE, AND WAS REFLECTED IN HULLEY'S COMMENTS. END COMMENT.
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